

MULTIMEDIA



UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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# MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

## FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2018 / 2019

**TEP 1241**  
**ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTS**  
(All Sections / Groups)

5 MARCH 2019  
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.  
(2 hours)

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### INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **FOUR** pages only excluding the cover page.
2. Answer **ALL FIVE** structured questions.
3. Please write all your answers in the answer booklet provided.
4. Distribution of marks for each question is given.

**STRUCTURED QUESTIONS [50 MARKS]**

**Instruction:** Answer ALL FIVE questions.

**QUESTION 1 [10 marks]**

- (a) *Software piracy* is considered the unauthorized and illegal copying of software. *Software piracy* can be costly as it can lead to significant losses to the companies affected by it. Hence, ethicists have long considered *software piracy* to be ethically wrong. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What is the primary excuse that may have been used by people who carry out *software piracy*, to justify their illegal actions or activities? (1 mark)
  - (ii) When one purchases a software legally, why is he or she still not permitted to make copies for his or her friends to use? (1 mark)
  - (iii) How would you use the ethical theory of *utilitarianism* to explain your position (or stand) that *software piracy* is ethically wrong? (2 marks)
  - (iv) How would you use the ethical theory of *deontology* to explain your position (or stand) that *software piracy* is ethically wrong? (2 marks)
- (b) Provide the main difference between *cultural relativism* and *moral relativism*. What would be the main objection against *moral relativism*? (2 marks)
- (c) One of the arguments for evaluating harm in *virtual environments* is the *argument from moral development*. To illustrate this argument, it has been suggested that the argument by Immanuel Kant for the treatment of animals be extended to the treatment of virtual characters. Why is that? (2 marks)

**QUESTION 2 [10 marks]**

- (a) Professional codes of ethics serve a variety of functions for professionals. To eliminate some criticisms against such codes, Gotterbarn has argued the need to distinguish **THREE** aspects of the professional codes. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What are Gotterbarn's **THREE** aspects of the professional codes? Use *examples* in your explanation for each of the three aspects of the professional codes. (3 marks)
  - (ii) With reference to the three aspects of the professional codes that you have provided in (i), what are the possible "enforcements" for each of these three aspects of the professional codes, should it be violated by the IT professional? (1½ marks)
- (b) In understanding the progress of cybertechnology and cyberethics, it has been said that the spread of Internet-based and Web-based technologies has raised ethical concerns affecting issues such as (i) *Free speech* and (ii) *Anonymity*. Provide the main ethical concerns for each of these two issues mentioned. (2 marks)

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- (c) Consider the issue of *job displacement* in numerous job sectors in the current era of cybertechnology. Based on this issue, answer the following:
- (i) Why has the increased use of information technology in many job sectors worsened the issue of *job displacement*? Use a relevant *example* in your answer to highlight the unethical nature of this issue. (1 mark)
  - (ii) If you are a *deontologist*, what would be your position (or stand) on this issue? Provide *deontological* reasons to support your position (or stand). (2½ marks)

### QUESTION 3 [10 marks]

- (a) Hacking is sometimes described as the stealing of information and software, the corruption of data, etc. Self-identified hackers, however, often justify their hacking activities by arguing that their activities cause no real harm and instead provide “positive benefits”. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What are **TWO** of such “positive benefits”? (½ mark)
  - (ii) One of these “positive benefits” is based on the “hacker ethic”. Explain what the “hacker ethic” is. (½ mark)
  - (iii) What are the **THREE** principles related to the “hacker ethic”? (1½ marks)
  - (iv) Herman Tavani, the author of “Ethics and Technology” had written that all the three principles related to the “hacker ethic” cannot be sustained. What are the arguments in response to each of these three principles? (1½ marks)
- (b) *Virtue ethics* emphasize an individual’s character as the key element of ethical thinking. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What is *virtue ethics*? (1 mark)
  - (ii) What is the weakness (besides depending on homogenous community standards for morality) of this ethical theory in comparison with *normative ethics*? (1 mark)
  - (iii) How would *virtue ethics* be used to point out that spreading fake news on the Internet is morally wrong? Provide a virtue (not *vice*) in your answer. (2 marks)
- (c) Personal autonomy in humans is affected by technologies such as *ambient intelligence*. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) How does *ambient intelligence* increase self-control (enhance *autonomy*) and yet, at the same time, decrease human self-control as well? (1 mark)
  - (ii) What is the ethical issue of *privacy, surveillance and Panopticon* which results from the use of *ambient intelligence*? Elaborate. (1 mark)

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**QUESTION 4 [10 marks]**

- (a) James Moor (2004) defined a *theory of privacy* which incorporated key elements of the three classic theories of privacy. Central to Moor's theory is the distinction between *naturally private* and *normatively private* situations. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What are **TWO** of the three classic theories of privacy? (1 mark)
  - (ii) A key element in Moor's definition of a *theory of privacy* is the notion of a "situation". What is this notion of a "situation"? (½ mark)
  - (iii) What is the difference between a *naturally private* situation and a *normatively private* situation? (2 marks)
  - (iv) Under what condition would a *utilitarian* likely oppose the *right to privacy*? Provide your reasoning which is in line with the *utilitarian* perspective. (1 mark)
- (b) There are seven personal data protection principles under section 130 of the *Personal Data Protection Act 2010* (Malaysia) which was introduced by the Malaysian Government. These principles relate to the issue of privacy concerns. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What was the reason for this *Personal Data Protection Act 2010*? (½ mark)
  - (ii) What would a *deontologist* think of this *Personal Data Protection Act 2010*? Use *deontological* reasoning to support your answer. (1 mark)
  - (iii) What is an IT professional required to do when handling the personal data of his company's clients in view of the need to comply with the *Personal Data Protection Act 2010*? (1 mark)
- (c) Censorship in cyberspace often involve either the suppression or deterrence of "objectionable speech" such as hate speech. Based on this, answer the following:
- (i) What is the formal definition of "censorship"? (1 mark)
  - (ii) Use *utilitarianism* to support the position that censorship of "objectionable speech" such as hate speech is *morally acceptable*. (2 marks)

**QUESTION 5 [10 marks]**

- (a) In the study of intellectual property disputes in cyberspace, there are three philosophical theories that have been used to justify property rights, namely the “Labor theory”, the “Utilitarian theory” and the “Personality theory”. Based on these three philosophical theories, answer the following:
- (i) What does the “Labor theory” of property actually mean? Provide an IT-related example in your answer. (1 mark)
  - (ii) What are **TWO** main criticisms of the “Utilitarian theory” in the issue of property rights? (1 mark)
  - (iii) Why do supporters (advocates) of the “Personality theory” believe that creative works deserve legal protection? (1 mark)
  - (iv) The “Labor theory” of property assumes that property right is a *natural right* while the “Utilitarian theory” considers property right an *artificial right*. What is an *artificial right*? (1 mark)
- (b) According to Herman Tavani, a definition of a *genuine cybercrime* would be a crime in which the criminal act can be carried out only through the use of cybertechnology and can take place only in the cyber-realm. Suppose a common criminal called Alfonso has carried out *cybervandalism*. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) Has Alfonso committed a *genuine cybercrime*? Why or why not? (1 mark)
  - (ii) Use Kant’s concept of *universality* from the ethical theory of *deontology* to illustrate why *cybervandalism* is morally wrong. (2 marks)
- (c) Ethical theories can guide us in our analysis of numerous moral issues involving cybertechnology. One such ethical theory is the *contract-based* ethical theory and an example of this theory include the *social contract theory*. Based on this information, answer the following:
- (i) What does the *social contract theory* say? (½ mark)
  - (ii) What is the main disadvantage of the *social contract theory*? (½ mark)
  - (iii) *Rights based contract theories* consists of two kinds of legal rights, namely *positive rights* and *negative rights*. What is the difference between these two legal rights? If the citizens of this country are given a positive right to *privacy*, what then is the government of this country required to do? (2 marks)